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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7502

BILL NUMBER: HB 1388

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 7, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: High school diplomas for veterans.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Bischoff

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill provides that a veteran of the Korean Conflict who left a public or nonpublic high school without graduating in order to perform military service may receive a high school diploma.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:* Under the bill, the Department of Education would incur expenditures to produce additional diplomas for Korean Veterans, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs would incur additional administrative responsibility to verify the eligibility of veterans from the Korean conflict. The fiscal impact to state expenditures is currently indeterminable.

Diploma Cost: Under P.L.127-2002, World War I and World War II veterans that dropped out of high school in order to enlist in the Armed Forces of the United States are eligible to be awarded an honorary high school diploma. The total cost to produce a veterans diploma under P.L.127-2002, is approximately \$2.79. Since the passage of P.L. 127-2002, the Department of Education and Department of Veterans' Affairs has approved 110 applications, with further approvals pending.

Background: Projections from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs indicate that approximately 64,000 veterans from the Korean conflict are living in Indiana. Assuming that all officers had a high school diploma and would not be eligible for this program, the number would be reduced. It is estimated that 2,400 officers that served in the conflict are living in Indiana today, and would reduce the number to 61,600. Data on Indiana high school dropout rates from the 1950's is currently not available. However, it is certain that not all 61,600 Korean veterans currently living in Indiana left an Indiana high school to fight in Korea. An

estimated 6,600 enlisted veterans living in Indiana fought in both WW II and Korea, which when removed would reduce the number of eligible veterans further to 55,000.

There could be additional veterans living out-of-state that left an Indiana high school to enter the Korean conflict that may qualify. There may also be veterans living in Indiana that attended an out-of-state high school.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary:* If a school corporation holds a veteran diploma ceremony, the school corporation would incur additional costs, unless the ceremony were held concurrent with other school activities such as commencement.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education; Department of Veterans Affairs.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: Steve Meskin, Office of the Actuary, Office of Policy and Planning, U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, (202) 273-5062; Terry Spradlin, Indiana Department of Education, (317) 232-6671.

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